



Labor News Bits

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Albert G. Kroll
Commissioner

June 4, 2003

ATTENTION: BUSINESS MANAGERS & PRESIDENTS

News & Information

Governor highlights state's investment in Meadowlands region

Reinforcing his commitment to making the Meadowlands region a world-class tourist attraction and economic engine, Governor James E. McGreevey addressed the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce breakfast reception at 9:00 a.m. at the Crown Plaza Meadowlands Hotel in Secaucus on May 16th.

The governor was joined by NJ Sports and Exposition Authority President and CEO George Zoffinger, Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin, Transportation Commissioner Jack Lettiere, Labor Commissioner Al Kroll, and NJ Transit Executive Director George Warrington.

"For years, the Meadowlands region has been thought of as Jersey's great swampland and its potential has been ignored for too long," said McGreevey. "Millions of people visit the Meadowlands each year, yet, the length of their visit lasted as long as a concert or football game. We're going to change that and in the process create jobs, widespread economic opportunity and a model of public-private smart growth development."

Commissioner Kroll announces NJDOL training grant awardees

New Jersey Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll announced that the department has awarded two new grants to aid businesses in training their workforces.

- A literacy training grant was awarded to Care Plus NJ of Paramus to aid its workforce in dealing with the challenges of the global economy.

Care Plus NJ, which provides services for the rehabilitation industry, will use the \$48,260 literacy grant to build stronger relations among cowork-

ers, supervisors, and management and improve work quality and enhance employee productivity. Basic computer training will be provided as well. The training will be done by Rutgers University Office of Continuing Professional Education.

The literacy grant is funded through New Jersey's Supplemental Workforce Fund for Basic Skills, part of the state's investment in raising the skills of workers through the Workforce Development Partnership program.

- A \$241,247 customized training grant was awarded to Ginsburg Bakery of Atlantic City, a large manufacturer of bread and cake products for wholesale distributors throughout the Northeast region.

Atlantic Cape Community College will provide the training, which will upgrade the skills of 138 existing workers and lead to the hiring of 15 new employees. The skills training will cover reading, writing and communication skills.

Kroll said the department is working with higher education institutions, business, labor, and local community organizations to make good investments in businesses and workers. "These types of public-private partnerships guarantee our companies and our workers will have the base of knowledge and up-to-date skills in their fields to meet any challenge ahead," Kroll said.

Information about customized training and literacy grants is available by calling (609) 292-2239 or visiting the Department of Labor Web site, www.nj.gov/labor.

Governor McGreevey announces school construction initiatives

Governor James E. McGreevey announced statewide major school construction initiatives taking place over the next two years. The governor

emphasized the impact of these initiatives on both the education of New Jersey's children and the economy of New Jersey's communities. Ninety-five new schools and school additions will open in 2003 as well as 159 in 2004. These schools will be opening in both Abbott and non-Abbott school districts.

The Labor Department's role in administering the school construction program is monitoring the payment of prevailing wages on all school construction projects. Additionally, the New Jersey Schools Construction Corp. (SCC) has partnered with NJDOL through a Memorandum of Understanding to establish guidelines for implementation of a workforce development program, funded by the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act.

On May 23, Gov. McGreevey helped to break ground for an addition to Bradley Elementary School in Asbury Park. The project involves the construction of a new 32,700-square-foot facility and renovations to the approximately 47,000 square feet of existing space.

Local, state and school officials also celebrated a groundbreaking in Passaic City on May 19, for a new addition to the Mario J. Drago School No. 3 that will add over 56,000 square feet to the school.

In April, Gov. McGreevey announced the construction of two new schools in Neptune to serve as state-of-the-art education centers and catalysts for the revitalization of the community. Additionally in April, Vineland celebrated a project kickoff for the E.R. Johnstone Elementary School to build a 22,600-square-foot addition. The new construction will provide enhanced educational opportunities for approximately 550 children in grades pre-K through four.

Call 609.292.3221 for copies of Labor News Bits or for more information.

www.nj.gov/labor

Working Together to Keep New Jersey Working